



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**Town of New London
Recreation Commission Meeting
3/24/2009**

Present:

Keith Pomkoski, Chair
Allison McLean
Chad Denning, Director
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

Absent:

Laura James
Gerald Coogan
Jason Stadler

The meeting was called to order by Chad Denning at 5:07P.M.

This special meeting was called to discuss the acquisition and use of a shuttle bus for the summer. Mr. Denning said that the New London Hospital has a shuttle bus which they are willing to sell to the Recreation Department for \$5,000. The potential use of this bus was explored. Mr. Denning said that this bus would add to the flexibility of both current and future programming for the Recreation Department. He said for this summer it would facilitate the transportation of kids to the Bucklin beach, and on small regional field trips which right now, due to transportation limitations, are not able to be offered. He said this bus would also enable the Recreation Department to develop more programs aimed at middle and high school age youth who right now often have no way to get into New London to participate in the programs which are offered. He added that driving the bus does not require a special license and would be insured under the Town's vehicular policy.

The payment for this vehicle and source of funding was then explored. Ms. Levine said that the Town does not want to add another vehicle to its fleet without a thorough discussion and would require approval at Town Meeting. Mr. Denning thought that perhaps a rent-to-own arrangement might be an option. Ms. Levine said that any purchase would need Town approval, but perhaps paying a monthly rental fee to the hospital until next March when this could be presented to the Town for their decision regarding the purchase would be an option. She suggested that between now and then Mr. Denning could raise money for the purpose of covering the cost of the bus either by asking for a grant, through donations, or other special fund raisers, but said it was not be possible to use the reserve fund for this purpose. Raising the money would demonstrate the interest in having a bus and the ability to pay for it out of money generated especially for this purpose by the Recreation Department. Mr. Denning will explore the possibility of sharing the bus with neighboring towns, along with the possibility of sharing its use with the Council on

Aging. Ms. Levine suggested that she could call Laura Underwood of New London Hospital to see what a monthly rental fee might be for the bus. If this is a manageable cost for the Recreation Department, then Mr. Denning could integrate the bus into its programming and begin to develop new areas of activity which would incorporate this resource. This will become a good trial period, gathering information which can then be used at a possible future Town Meeting to ask for support of the purchase of this bus.

On a different subject, Mr. Denning said that he was exploring the possibility of having a Farmer's Market this summer on the New London green on Friday nights (between 4:00-6:30 P.M) preceding the band concerts. He has spoken to Greg Berger of Spring Ledge Farms about this and has received favorable support. He has not yet approached the band concert organizers to discuss. Members of the Recreation Commission reacted favorably to this idea.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby
Recording secretary